Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division Correctional Law Section Los Angeles



One of the sections within the Division of Civil Law is the Correctional Law Section (CLS). CLS represents the State in civil rights actions involving state prisoners and in habeas corpus petitions where state prisoners challenge the conditions of their confinement or attack parole proceedings. Specifically, Correctional Law Deputy Attorneys General in the civil rights unit represent three client agencies and their employees: the California Department of Corrections, the Board of Prison Terms, and the California Youth Authority.

CLS attorneys in the civil rights unit are litigators who defend those clients in lawsuits brought by prison inmates, parolees and juvenile wards of the state who allege violations of their civil rights by employees of the client agencies. The attorneys in the habeas corpus unit represent wardens of state prisons, the Board of Prison Terms and the Governor of the State of California in habeas corpus proceedings where the inmate or parolee's sentence and/or conviction are not at issue. Rather, the inmate has attacked some aspect or condition of confinement, a prison disciplinary proceeding, or some component of the parole revocation proceedings or the denial of parole if a life inmate.

Ongoing law clerk positions are available within the Correctional Law Section of the Attorney General's Office in Los Angeles for the Fall, Spring and Summer. Law clerks typically work with Deputy Attorneys General on research, writing and fact investigation in preparation for trial. They also prepare returns to petitions for writs of habeas corpus. While clerking, students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities including attending settlement conferences, depositions, mediations and trials. Students are also typically able to visit at least one state prison. Some former law clerks have eventually been hired to permanent positions within the Office of the Attorney General.

Our Los Angeles Branch is located in the Ronald Reagan State building in downtown Los Angeles. CLS clerks must work a minimum of 18 hours per week and the positions are generally unpaid; however, students may obtain school credit for their work.

How to Apply:

Please send a resume and writing sample (transcript is also desirable) to:

Conrad Schroeder Deputy Attorney General Correctional Law Section Office of the Attorney General 300 S. Spring Street, 6-South Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 897-7276 JConrad.Schroeder@doj.ca.gov